

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 20 MARCH 2005

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za, on packet bulletin boards and on Echolink from Chris, ZS6FCS.

SILENT KEY

It is with regret that Council announces the passing of Philip Hartslief ZS4PH on 17 March 2005 following a motor car accident. We extend our condolences to his mother, family and friends.

LAST VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA ENDS IN TRAGEDY FOR UK COUPLE

Lee Grant, G3XNG was killed instantly when his car was involved in a high speed collision just outside Swellendam on 24 February this year. His wife Margaret died 3 weeks later from multiple injuries and complications.

Lee was born in Canada in 1922. Lee moved to the UK and took on the call G3XNG in honour of his step father. His love for South Africa started during the few years based at Wingfield, just outside Cape Town during which he was involved with installation of radio navigation equipment. Lee met Margaret at the RAF base at Bedford shortly after the war where she was a matron nursing sister.

For many years they visited South Africa which they loved dearly. He became quite proficient in using Afrikaans to speak to the people in the country. He used the call ZS1XNG during his frequent visits to his close friend Michael Warr, ZS1WA in Barrydale. This was to be their last visit to South Africa. What a pity it had to end like this. They have many friends all over the world who will remember them with affection.

[PAUSE]

In the news today.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT 7P8 CALL SIGNS:

AGM NOTICES

REGISTER NOW FOR AMSATCON 2005

DXCC HONOUR ROLL

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office, which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS depends on clubs and individuals for news of interest to radio amateurs. Please place your news items on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English, but please check any dates and telephone numbers before submitting your news item; the editor has found some grave mistakes in the past.

You are listening to ZS6SRL and the news follows in detail.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT 7P8 CALL SIGNS

Leon Tromp, 7P8EK, President of the Lesotho Amateur Radio Society (LARS) told SARL News "It has come to my notice that some hams have publicly challenged hams with 7P8 call signs that they are pirates and that the cases would be reported to ICASA.

As President of the Lesotho Amateur Radio Society (LARS), I wish to state that the exams for amateur radio licensing adhere to strict international standards. The issue of licences are subject to final approval of Lesotho Telecommunications Authority after passing the ham exam. The Lesotho regulations make full provision for these arrangements and are strictly applied by my Society. Lesotho is a signatory to the IARU and adheres to world standards with respect to licensing.

Many 7P8 hams work in Lesotho but over weekends reside in South Africa. The repeater positioned at Ladybrand covers both Lesotho and South Africa and there is no law in either country to prevent hams from using it for cross border communications. This repeater is connected via Echolink on weekends.

It is with utter dismay that our secretary reported that he overheard a conversation between 7P8JB and 7P8BS being interrupted by a South African ham to state that 7P8JB, 7P8BS and myself 7P8EK are pirate stations and that we must be ignored. No further contacts through the Echolink were possible since we were then regarded as "pirates". The fact that some ZS licensed hams have decided that they will adjudicate the validity of 7P8 call signs is not within their mandate and does not show the spirit of ham companionship encountered elsewhere. By the way, these hams are legally licensed ham operators.

I am also a member of the SARL and also hold a legal ZR call sign in addition to my 7P8 call sign. In my capacity as LARS President I feel obliged to strongly object to this type of behaviour and would further request that a general notice to be given to SARL members not to publicly broadcast their objection to so called 'pirate' 7P8 call signs. In the spirit of amateur radio we feel that this type of behaviour is uncalled for. The 7P8 hams have enjoyed good ham relationships with the ZS/ZR hams and wish that discussion, over the air, of these "illegal 7P8 operators" be stopped.

Please feel free to contact me any time if there is any doubt as to the validity of a 7P8 call sign. Swift action will be taken by LARS against any illegal operators.”

AGM NOTICES

The notices for the SARL AGM, to be held on 9 April 2005 in Johannesburg, were posted to all paid up members by Thursday 17 March 2005. The notice contains the Agenda of the AGM, a proxy form, the motions, the financial documents as well as the minutes of the 2004 AGM. The document is also available in PDF format on the SARL website at www.sarl.org.za

REGISTER NOW FOR AMSATCON 2005

Register now for AMSATCON2005, SA AMSAT's annual satellite conference which will be held at the SARL National Amateur Radio Centre and the Sentech Conference Centre in Gauteng on Saturday 14 May. Save on the registration fee by being an early bird. Registration before 22 April 2005 is R70 for SA AMSAT and SARL members and R120 for non-members. Full time students pay R50. After April 29 the fee is substantially more. Full details can be found on www.amsatsa.org.za or by requesting a registration form from saamsat@intekom.co.za.

The programme includes papers on 'Getting acquainted with AO-51', 'How to get started', 'History of Amateur Satellites', 'AMSAT DL's mission to Mars' and the South African Rocketry Association

MORE DONATIONS FOR THE SARL IARU FUND

Donations for the SARL IARU fund are coming in slowly. This week the fund increased to R3 623. Thanks Dave Reece ZS1DFR. The target is R13 000 which has to be reached by May when the SARL subscription to the IARU is due. Please make your contribution and help to keep the SARL and South Africa Internationally represented.

After making a donation please send a copy of the deposit slip to 012 991 5651 by fax, to saardt@intekom.co.za by email or to PO Box 90438 Garsfontein 0042 by mail. The account number for contributions is ABSA 560 142 722, Menlyn Park, branch code 335 645. Cheques should be made payable to the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust. Full details can be found on www.amateurradio.co.za.

DXCC HONOUR ROLL

Tjerk ZS6P, our local Card Checker for the ARRL's DXCC program reports that he has just received the following from the manager, Bill Moore NC1L

“Just a reminder that the deadline to be shown in the next DXCC Honour Roll list is 31 March 2005. Submissions must be postmarked 31 March 2005 for your submission to count for this listing.

The DXCC Honour Roll list will appear in August 2005 QST. There are 335 entities on the DXCC list and you must be within the numerical top 10 DXCC entities to qualify. The current minimum requirement for Honour Roll is 326

current entities.” Although it is rather late at this stage, there is just enough time to still make your submission.

SARL VHF/UHF CONTEST

Derek ZS5Y, the VHF/UHF Contest Manager reminds everybody who took part in the first leg of the SARL VHF/UHF Contest last weekend to send their logs to the following address only - by e-mail to derek.gravett@siemens.com or by snail mail to The Contest Committee, 69 Erskine Street, Scottburgh, 4180. Please do not use any other address.

PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

During this reporting week, sunspot counts were higher while geomagnetic indices were lower, a nice combination for HF operators. Average daily sunspot counts rose nearly 25 points to 60.7, and average daily solar flux increased nearly 22 points to 107.8. This is a nice time to have a few more sunspots, because we are approaching that magic time of the equinox. Despite the old urban legend, the task of balancing an upright egg does not become easier at the equinox, but these days are nice for HF propagation.

Sunlight is more evenly distributed across the northern and southern hemispheres, and it should be completely equal this Sunday, 20 March at 1233 UTC. That is the moment of the vernal equinox on the first day of spring for the northern hemisphere, and autumnal equinox for the southern hemisphere.

The outlook for the very near term is for sunspots and solar flux to decline very gradually from current values until 26 - 29 March, then rise back to current activity around 6 - 11 April. Geomagnetic conditions should be slightly unsettled for 18 - 19 March, but otherwise quiet after that.

DIARY OF EVENTS

31 March - closing date for final papers for AMSATCOM 2005; and closing date for part 1 of the 2005 Construction Competition; 07 April - SARL 80 Metre QSO Party 08 April - SARL Awards Dinner; 09 April - SARL AGM; 10 April - SARL Hamnet 40 Metre Emergency Contest 14 April - closing date for May RAE 14 May - AMSATCON 2005. 19 May - Radio Amateur Examination 31 May - closing date for part 2 of the 2005 Construction Competition

The SARL invites you to listen on Sundays at 10:00 to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 700, 7 205, and 7 082 kHz and many 2 m repeaters in different areas. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today’s bulletin, which was compiled by Dennis, ZS4BS, and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX